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FROM

Miss Penelope Noyes.....



—: THE:—
CAP AND GOWN IN AMERICA.

Reprinted from the University Magazine for December, 1893.

TO WHICH IS ADDED
AN ILLUSTRATED SKETCH OF THE
Intercollegiate System of Academic Costume.

GARDNER COTRELL LEONARD, B. A.,
Williams College, '87.

PRICE, 25 CENTS.

ALBANY, N. Y.
COTRELL & LEONARD,
Established 1832.
472 AND 474 BROADWAY.
1896.



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TYPE 7.

THE CAP AND GOWN IN AMERICA.

BY GARDNER COTRELL LEONARD.

THE custom of wearing caps and gowns on appropriate occasions is fast becoming fixed in the higher educational institutions of this country. It has passed the stage of student fad or ecclesiastical requirement ; it has overcome the quiet national anglophobia, because it has been tried in our leading centres of higher education, and approved by both the æsthetic and the utilitarian sense.

The academic gown, as used in America, is really a uniform. On its historic and picturesque side it serves to remind those who don it of the continuity and dignity of learning, and recalls the honored roll of English-speaking University men. On its democratic side, it subdues the differences in dress arising from the differences in taste, fashion manners and wealth, and clothes all with the outward grace of equal fellowship which has ever been claimed as an inner fact in the republic of learning.



TYPE 2.

The plates shown in this article are from a series of photographs contributed by the writer to the World's Fair Exhibit of the Regents of the University of the State of New York, showing the gowns used in this country and in New York State. They are types which form a system broadly accepted, and which may be adapted to the organization in any university or college.

Type 7 is the gown of highest dignity. It is worn by the Chancellor, the President, the Members of Corporation, the heads of the Faculty, the Divines, and the Judges of our Higher Courts. The outlines are ample; the shirring the finest, the fabrics the richest.

Type 2 is the Oxford, Cambridge and Edinburgh Doctor's gown, not so well known, but used with varying cordings in some of our best

systems. This is the gown of the President and the Professors of the University of Chicago, where, perhaps, the most complete system of gowns has been installed. The Faculty of Brown wears it.

The technical difficulties of all these gowns have been mastered by our American gown-makers.

Type 5 is a gown of wide choice, always graceful, and commends itself particularly to women's colleges, although not confined to them. It is the Wellesley gown, and is also worn at Wells, Mount Holyoke College, Elmira College, University of Iowa, University of Chicago and others, and by graduating classes at leading seminaries. It is modified for different grades in some institutions by varied cordings on the yoke, and can be made to close in front if desired.



TYPE 5.

Type 10 is a gown of simple design, though by proper proportions it is very effective. It covers the apparel quite completely, and where an inexpensive outfit is desired it merits favor, requiring less labor in making than the closed Type 6c. It has none of the fine shirring which shows below the yoke in Types 7, 2 or 6. It was the first pattern used at Yale, Williams and some other colleges, and is used at Franklin and Marshall, Hampden-Sidney, Biddle University and elsewhere.



TYPE 10.

The typical American college gown, however, is shown in Type 6, the Oxford Bachelors' gown.

It is worn at Harvard, Amherst, Dartmouth, Tufts, Union, Beloit, Lafayette, University of Vermont, Dickinson, Wesleyan, South Western Presbyterian University, New York University, Napa, Livingstone College, Trinity and others. Modified to close in front as shown in Type 6c it is worn at Yale and Williams.

The beauty of its workmanship, the fullness yet softness of its lines and draping, its adaptability by proper cutting to the man or woman whose shoulders fill it, have contributed to its wide adoption and made it the true American gown, for which the writer has heard only words of praise.

The cap is throughout the Oxford cap, or Mortar Board. The cap with stiff skull part is still used, but has been displaced in best outfits for men by that with a folding skull part, an improvement which admits of carrying easily when off the head and packing compactly at any time. It fits a man's head more comfortably, stays on more firmly and cannot get out of shape unless the flat board is broken.

For women's caps the stiff-skulled cap is more adapted and is made with less depth in the crown. The boards of all caps properly made are proofed with shellac to resist rain.

Hoods for the learned degrees have for the most part been worn in this country by those receiving degrees from English universities. The code is a long one and differs in different British universities. The Bachelor's hood is trimmed with white fur, the Oxford M. A. hood is lined with crimson silk, the Cambridge M. A. with white silk. The Oxford D. D. is of scarlet cloth lined with black silk; the Cambridge D. D., of scarlet cloth lined with pink silk; the Oxford D. C. L., or its equivalent, the LL. D., is of scarlet cloth lined with crimson silk; the Cambridge LL. D., scarlet cloth lined with pink silk, and so on through the list. If hoods are to find general use in this country, the Oxford practice should be followed, for, with our hundreds of institutions conferring degrees, there may easily arise hopeless confusion.

There seems to be a decided tendency towards the use of hoods, the varying types of gowns serving to mark the relative positions of their wearers. Our American mind could easily master the intricacies of special hoods, using the Bachelor's for all the subordinate degrees conferred. The moderately utilitarian side of the question is the one which has been most influential in establishing the gown, and the hood lends dignity and distinction.



TYPE 6c.



TYPE 6.

The gown uniforms a body of scholars, overcoming the nondescript dress of any considerable number of men or women. On the score of economy it saves many a young man or woman considerable expenditure at the end of a course, when there is the least left to spend, but when it is desirable to make the best appearance. In colleges where gowns are worn throughout the year, the plainest suit or dresses may be worn beneath them.

Gown-makers, on account of manufacturing largely and obtaining their fabrics at first hands, are able to provide outfits at prices often less than the cost of the material if purchased through the local channels of trade.

The simple measurements are usually taken and the outfits delivered through a committee appointed by a class and recommended by some officer of the faculty. In this way colleges and universities wherever situated are easily and satisfactorily supplied.

The general adoption of cap and gown for appropriate occasions throughout the year, for general wear or for wear during the few weeks around commencement time, has been no surprise to one who has watched for ten years the growth of this custom which embodies both beauty and utility.

GARDNER COTRELL LEONARD.

PROGRESS OF THE INTERCOLLEGIATE SYSTEM.

Since the publication of the preceding article, academic costume has made vast strides in this country. Scores of institutions for higher education have felt its real usefulness and adopted gowns for ceremonial or ordinary wear. Numerous colleges where the gown was confined to the presiding officer have extended it to the members of the governing body, to the faculty or to its senior class. In many institutions where it originated with the senior class, the custom has extended to the faculty and to the junior and lower classes. In general the gown movement has been a student movement, and while, for the most part, it has been encouraged by college and university authorities and in some cases required by them, there are a few cases where petitions to the faculty have been made and refused. It is difficult to understand why the right to wear a particular style of cap, gown or suit need be asked or how it can be withheld in view of the decisions so often promulgated that a college student must be protected in the sacred right of wearing any article of decent apparel that he chooses, even if it be a silk hat or a cane in the very early part of his course.

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TYPE 10 x o.



10½ x o or 10 x c.



TYPE 6Bo.



TYPE 6Bo or 6Be.

In academies, seminaries and institutes, approximating the collegiate grades, the gown in an appropriate type or color,—in blue in some instances—is meeting a demand for a uniform embracing grace and economy, replacing many an ungraceful uniform dress designed to prevent emulation in apparel. It is a true economy also in allowing simple clothing to be worn beneath it and saves friction and wearing out of the ordinary and more expensive clothes upon desks and benches.

Progress in designing has developed improved models in some types, and varied ideas have demanded their embodiment in varied types. Type 10 has become 10 x c or 10 x o, the same gown made closed or open in front, and the closing of the gown in front, an American utilitarian idea, has been found to result in a comely gown that can be worn either open or closed. All the types are now made both ways. Type 6B is a modification of type 6 that is lighter in weight and appearance, and has the narrow yoke and identical arrangement of fine shirring of the best English and Scotch gowns. Type 8 is similar to type 7, except that the sleeve being unlined does not give as broad an effect to the gown or the wearer.

Gowns for the pulpit have ever been in considerable use in America, and the number of clergymen who wear them has increased largely in the last decade. More interest is being manifested in the subject than ever before, and now that we have recognized gown makers of national reputation, who, from their facilities and broad business methods, are able to furnish them at rational prices,

gowns are being worn in many pulpits that were formerly precluded from them from lack of facilities of supply. The types used are 7, 8 and the Geneva gown.

The gown is becoming more and more used upon the Bench, and generally is adopted on the petition of the Bar. Several divisions of the higher courts of New York and Pennsylvania have recently adopted them, following the usage of the U. S. Supreme Court and the N. Y. Court of Appeals. The type is 7.



TYPE 8c.

Perhaps nothing has contributed more largely to the advancement of the cause among the governing bodies and various faculties than the report, in May, 1895, of the Intercollegiate Commission on academic costume, which held its sessions at Columbia College under the Chairmanship of President Low, of which John J. McCook Esq., of the Princeton Corporation, the Rev. Dr. Charles Ray Palmer, of the Yale Corporation, and Chancellor MacCracken, of the University of the City of New York, were active factors.

The following extract from the annual report for 1895 of President Low, of Columbia College, indicates the importance assigned to the subject of a uniform academic costume by an acknowledged leader in University development. In President Low an accurate knowledge of business and political and public affairs is happily combined with a broad University training and experience. He is recognized everywhere as a thoroughly practical man of affairs,

and his conclusions upon such a subject are entitled to great consideration and should have much influence with those who have not had the time or opportunity to study this important University question from the standpoint of history, usage and utility. President Low says :

"The movement towards the adoption in this country of a distinctive academic costume for professors and graduates, has received a new impetus this year. On the initiation of Princeton University, an intercollegiate committee has been considering the subject, and a statute based upon their report is now awaiting adoption at your hands. A corresponding statute has already been enacted by Princeton and Yale and other colleges. The original Columbia statute is the basis of all these enactments, but some changes of detail are necessary in our own statute to adapt it to the general scheme. The purpose is to secure a uniform practice among the American colleges and universities, whereby the cap and gown and hood shall indicate not only the degree of the wearer and the faculty under which it was obtained, but also the institution by which the degree was conferred. It is to be hoped that the plan proposed will commend itself to our colleges and universities generally."

This Commission took into consideration the varying and almost motley character of the gowns and hoods worn by the holders of degrees, and the confusion and lack of meaning which hoods were liable to reach through a multiplication of arbitrary codes of pattern and coloring. The result was a draft of a statute that might be adopted by any institution, classifying the types of gowns, and doing a valuable constructive work in the sections which arranged a scheme of pattern and coloring to make the hood a plain badge of the degree, be it Bachelor, Master or Doctor; of the department of learning, be it Arts, Philosophy, Law, Theology or other; and of the institution granting the degree or with which the holder was then connected.

The marks of the gown sleeve are as follows: for the Bachelors' degree, a long pointed sleeve, for the Masters' degree, a long closed sleeve—type 2 where the arm issues from a slit near the upper part of the sleeve,—for the Doctors' degree a round, open sleeve, as type 7, 8, or Geneva gown.

The materials of the gowns are worsted stuff for the Bachelors, silk for the others. Trimmings are confined to the gowns of the Doctors, and are facings down the fronts and bars on the sleeves—of black velvet or velvet of the color of the trimming of the hoods.

The pattern for the hood for the Baccalaureate degree was taken to be the same as Oxford, not over three feet long; for the Masters' degree the Oxford shape, which is the same as the preceding, but a foot longer; for the Doctorate, a hood with a panel. In practice the panel is edged with the lining color or colors to outline the panel against the gown. Two shapes are in use, type O, the historical shape, and type Y, where a panel is added to the Masters' hood, but they are equally intelligible as the panel is the mark of the Doctorate. All the hoods are black, of the same material as the gown. The illustrations in these pages lose much in not being able to give the richness of the materials and the effect of the colorings.



BACHELOR'S HOOD.



MASTER'S HOOD.

The department or faculty of learning is shown by a trimming of color around the exterior edge of the hood, not exceeding six inches.—in actual practice varying from two to five inches in the different hoods,—based on historic reasons, being as follows :

Arts and Letters—White.
Theology—Scarlet.
Law—Purple.
Philosophy—Blue.

Science—Gold Yellow.
Fine Arts—Brown.
Music—Pink.
Medicine—Green.

The institution is shown by the color or colors of the lining, and as the colors of the various colleges and universities are known to a greater or less extent, so the hood lining announces to the beholder the institution which granted a man's degree or with which he is at present officially connected.

There is, of course, a problem at the outset to be solved at many institutions as the most effective arrangement in the lining of two or three colors, but from a trial in arrangement, or from suggestions from one who has worked upon the practical exemplification of this system, pleasing designs can be always obtained.

Where several institutions have the same colors, different arrangements of the colors can be selected and registered.

The Oxford cap is worn for all the degrees, but the Doctorate is entitled to a tassel of gold in whole or in part, and the cap of the Doctor alone may be of velvet.



DOCTOR'S HOOD, TYPE O.



DOCTOR'S HOOD, TYPE Y.

The advance shown in an intelligible system of hoods for America is evident to any one who gives to this subject even a casual interest. In the earlier article the writer deprecated a multiplication of unrelated codes. This uniform code is incomparably beyond the arbitrary codes of the British universities and of the earlier codes in this country, many of which it has already superseded by official enactment. It is hard for many an English university man to read the hoods of his own alma mater, to say nothing of those of the other universities of the British Isles or Colonies. Our system known for one institution is known for all, except perhaps as to the college colors shown.

The American Intercollegiate System is already so well established by the official action of Yale, Princeton, Columbia, Johns Hopkins, University of Pennsylvania, University of City of New York, Lafayette, the Catholic University of America and others, that the holder of a degree from any institution whose colors are well settled is warranted in wearing a hood made according to it, as no other code is likely to be adopted by any institution that has so far taken no action.

The holder of an honorable degree will reflect honor upon the institution that conferred it by showing her colors; the privilege of showing the possession of an honorable degree may not be a slight incentive to some to earn it, while our intercollegiate gatherings and celebrations may take on added interest from the college colors that will be worn by the various delegations that will represent sister institutions.



DOCTOR'S GOWN, TYPE 7.

In conclusion the writer invites communication from any one interested in the adoption of the code or custom by any institution, or in the modification of existing forms that do not reasonably conform to the intercollegiate system. To such is available any knowledge he possesses from the study of codes, plates and imported models; anything he has gained from conference with leading gown-makers abroad; any ideas derived from conversation or correspondence with many leading educators of this country, and anything worked out practically in training gown makers and manufacturing on a large scale. While endeavoring to supply to all parts of the country academic costumes that are worthy of our magnificent educational system, every economy has been studied in securing fabrics and making them up so as to offer caps, gowns and hoods at prices that will facilitate their use.

GARDNER C. LEONARD.

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